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(54) Title: COMBINATION THERAPY FOR TREATING CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY DISEASES

(57) Abstract: The present invention is directed to a novel DMARD sparing method for treating chronic inflammatory diseases or conditions, such as rheumatoid arthritis, comprising the short-term administration of a disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug (DMARD) followed by reduction of the DMARD and co-administration of a cyclooxygenase-2 selective inhibitor or cessation of the DMARD and continued maintenance therapy using a COX-2 selective inhibitor alone. The present invention provides for an effective DMARD sparing therapy in patients suffering from inflammatory diseases or conditions.

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